COCHIN

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE FIRST BUDGET SESSION OF THE FOURTH COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL).

Vol. I—1110.

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Saturday,

3rd August 1935.
18th Karkidagam 1110.

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at Eleven of the Clock, with Sir Shanmukham Chetty, K. C. I. E., in the Chair.

Messrs. M. V. Cherian, K. T. Mathew, Shabdai S. Koder, C. S. Viswanatha Ayyar and H. J. Walmesly were absent.

The Hon'ble Sir Muhamad Zafrulla Khan, the Commerce Member to the Government of India, was a distinguished visitor. Raja Sir Vasudeva Raja of Kollengode was another distinguished visitor in the President's Gallery.

Questions and Answers.

Tuticorin salt—Purchase of.

151. Mr. C. Kyyunni.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(1) is it true that this year the Government intends to get Tuticorin salt;

(2) whether it was in the habit of purchasing or getting the above-mentioned salt;

(3) is the Tuticorin salt inferior or equal or superior to the salt generally got down from Bombay to the State;

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(4) if it is inferior, what is the reason for getting down the Tuticorin salt ;

(5) is there any truth in the general opinion that Tuticorin salt is inferior to Bombay salt and that it is not quite fit for human consumption ?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—(1) Government intend to get some quantity of Tuticorin salt as a trial for next year.

(2) Yes, prior to 1094.

(3) There are different varieties of salt. Some are as good as Bombay salt.

(4) Vide answer to (3) above.

(5) Government have no information.

Mr. M. P. Cherian.— Sub-division (2). There is a slight mistake here. The figure is 1095 and not 1094.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.— Will the Hon'ble Member tell me what are the reasons which led the Government to make a departure this year?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Government received certain petitions from Tuticorin merchants offering salt at a lower rate. Government wanted to see whether they can accept the tenders with advantage to the Government.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.—Has the Government got a sample of the salt that they are intending to supply?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—They have sent samples.

Mr. P. J. Alexander.— On previous occasions Tuticorin salt was tried and then why should we make another trial?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—This is a question of cost. If we can get good salt at a cheaper rate why not we try?

Mr. P. J. Alexander.— Was there no trial on the last occasion? Have you not got the information which is cheaper or not?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—We may get good salt in some year and bad salt in another year. Sample received one year may not be same that we get the next year.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar. — What is the total quantity ?

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Mr. M. P. Cherian—Generally we obtain between 2,75,000 and 3,00,000 Mds.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Have they entered into an agreement with any merchant for the supply of Tuticorin salt?

Mr. M. P. Cherian—No.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni—Have tenders been called for with regard to Tuticorin salt?

Mr. M. P. Cherian— We are calling for tenders. The Notification has not yet been published.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.—Does the Hon'ble Member say that tenders will be called for at once this year or only after ascertaining the cheapness of rate and goodness of quality that the tenders will be finally decided?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Certainly.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Is it not the practice to call for tenders before the year is out?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Tenders for Bombay salt has been called for. In the meanwhile we received petitions from Tuticorin merchants. Therefore we want to try this also.

Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar.—The Hon'ble Member says that some are as good as Bombay salt. Has the Government any idea of the price of Tuticorin salt ?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—We cannot say the exact price unless we get the tenders.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.—Has the Government up till now received a sample of the salt?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—We have got samples of salt.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.—Have the Company or the merchants who have put in the petitions supplied the samples beforehand? Is the Government in possession of the sample?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Yes.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.— Has it been scrutinised by the Scientific Department or any department whether the salt is good and fit for human consumption?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.— It was not scrutinised by the scientific department.

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Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Who from Tuticorin has sent in the petition?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—There are three or four petitions. As for the names of the petitioners, I want notice.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan.—Is the Government sure that the salt which we are purchasing is the cheapest and the best?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—We called for tenders and we selected the best variety.

Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar.— Is Travancore using Tuticorin Salt?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Yes.

Legislative Council Questions.

152.—Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Government state the total number of admitted questions for the Fourth Legislative Session of the Third Cochin Legislative Council ?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar.—Government consider that the time and expense involved in the collection of the information required is not commensurate with the result.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Sir, for the mere counting of the questions where is the issue that the time and expense involved is not commensurate with the result?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar.—Certain amount of time will be involved in the process.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— Does it require so much time? May I know whether similar questions were answered in the previous session?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar.—Yes.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—For the information of the House will I be permitted to read .....

Mr. President. — When an Hon'ble Member makes a statement then we take it as true.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—I am bringing it to the notice of the Hon'ble President that this is definitely curtailing the powers of the non-official Members. I want to know whether this is against precedent?

Mr. President.—Breach of privilege of the House? Does the Hon'ble Member raise that as a definite question? I

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